

Organizations Supporting Senate Bill 115

Organizations registered in support of SB 115 with the WI GAB:

- Wisconsin Dietetic Association
- Wisconsin Medical Society
- Children's Hospital & Health System
- Wisconsin Nurses Association
- American Heart Association
- Wisconsin Public Health Association
- Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments & Boards
- School Nutrition Association of Wisconsin
- Wisconsin Health Care Association

Other organizations that publicly support SB 115:

- UW Hospital & Clinics
- ThedaCare
- Affinity Healthcare
- Bellin Health
- Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center Nutrition Department
- Wisconsin Partnership for Activity and Nutrition (WIPAN)
- Wisconsin Diabetes Advisory Group
- Wisconsin WIC Association
- Northeast WI Association of Diabetes Educators (NEWADE)
- West Central Wisconsin Chapter of the American Association of Diabetes Educators (WCWAADE)



University of Wisconsin
Hospital and Clinics

Patient Care Services and
Office of the Chief Nurse
Executive
600 Highland Ave.
Madison, WI 53792

608.263.8665
608.263.9830 Fax

August 7, 2009

Wisconsin Dietetic Association
c/o Lynn Edwards, RD, CD, Executive Director
1411 West Montgomery Street
Sparta, WI 54656-1003

RE: Senate Bill 115 – Dietitian Licensure

The University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics supports the Wisconsin Dietetic Association in their effort to pass Senate Bill 115, legislation that would license dietitians and nutritionists in Wisconsin and create a scope of practice for these highly-trained health care professionals.

Dietitian and nutritionist licensure is a safety measure for Wisconsin citizens. Health care consumers deserve access to reliable, high-quality nutrition counseling and therapy. Unfortunately, there have been many documented cases where individuals have received poor nutrition advice from unqualified practitioners, which has led to bad medical outcomes for patients across the state.

As mentioned-above, Senate Bill 115 would create a licensing standard for dietitians and nutritionists as well as a statutory scope of practice to ensure only qualified practitioners – who have met specific education and experience requirements – are able to provide nutrition therapy. Nutrition therapy is a complex practice used to treat specific chronic illnesses, such as diabetes and heart disease.

With several of the leading causes of death in our country linked to diet and lifestyle, individuals are commonly seeking expert nutrition therapy to prevent or treat serious illness and disease. It is more important than ever to ensure only qualified health care professionals are providing the nutritional assessments and interventions that could have life-or-death implications.

By licensing dietitians and nutritionists in Wisconsin, Senate Bill 115 will increase access to advanced nutrition care. To avoid making payments to unqualified practitioners, many insurance companies require health care providers to be licensed by the state for reimbursement. If consumers don't have to pay large out-of-pocket expenses, they're more likely to take advantage of cost-effective, preventative nutrition care.

The University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics supports the Wisconsin Dietitian Licensure Bill to help improve access to the highest-quality nutrition counseling and therapy.

Sincerely,

Maureen P. McCausland, DNSc, RN, FAAN
Senior Vice President, Patient Care Services
and Chief Nursing Officer

WEST CENTRAL WISCONSIN

American Association of
Diabetes Educators

WCWAADE

09-09-09

Wisconsin Dietetic Association
c/o Lynn Edwards RD, CD Executive Coordinator
1411 West Montgomery St.
Sparta, WI 54656 -1003

Re: Dietitian Licensure Bill

The West Central Wisconsin Chapter of the American Association of Diabetes Educators (WCWAADE) **supports the efforts of the Wisconsin Dietetic Association and the passage of the Dietitian Licensure Bill SB: 115.**

WCWAADE is a regional, multi-disciplinary professional membership organization dedicated to advancing practice of:

- Diabetes self-management training and care as integral components of health care for persons with diabetes
- Lifestyle management for the prevention of diabetes, including Medical Nutrition Therapy by Registered Dietitians

The West Central Wisconsin Chapter of the American Association of Diabetes Educators is made up of the leading authorities in northwest Wisconsin in diabetes self-management training and in lifestyle management for the prevention of and management of diabetes. WCWAADE advocates for improved access to diabetes self management training, and prevention training.

Dietitians and nutritionists are not currently licensed in WI. As a result, a wide variety of people call themselves "nutrition experts". Bookstores, television infomercials, and nutrition /weight loss websites are filled with an array of products and information that may not be credible. The public deserves to know when the information being given is based on science. They also deserve to know if the information is being given by people who have appropriate education and experience.

Licensure of dietitians and nutritionists protects the public by clearly identifying individuals that have met specific education and credentialing requirements. This bill would establish a scope of practice and title protection for Registered Dietitians (RD's), ensuring that only qualified individuals provide Medical Nutrition Therapy for prevention and treatment of chronic diseases and medical conditions such as Type 1 diabetes, Type 2 diabetes, gestational diabetes, and pre-diabetes. Thirty -five states as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico currently license dietitians.

State licensure will help improve availability of and access to high quality nutrition services. Many Wisconsin insurance companies require licensure to reimburse health care providers so unqualified providers dispensing questionable advice are not reimbursed. **Without licensure, services may not be covered regardless of whether a physician orders them.** Since these services are highly cost effective, the result will be a reduction in chronic disease and also in short term and long term savings of health care dollars.

WCWAADE supports the passage of the Dietitian Licensure Bill SB 115 because of the critical nature of having access to reliable and safe nutrition information and reliable services being made readily available to professionals and consumers as we address the epidemic of diabetes in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Christine Veenendall
Christine Veenendall, BSN, RN, CDE
President Elect WCWAADE



Affinity Medical Group
Administrative Offices
1570 Midway Place • Menasha, WI 54952

August 5, 2009

Wisconsin Dietetic Association
C/O Lynn Edwards, RD, CD, Executive Director
1411 West Montgomery Street
Sparta, WI 54656-1003

RE: Senate Bill 115 – Dietitian Licensure

The Affinity Health System supports the Wisconsin Dietetic Association in their effort to pass Senate Bill 115, legislation that would license dietitians and nutritionists in Wisconsin and create a scope of practice for these highly-trained health care professionals.

Dietitian and nutritionist licensure is a safety measure for Wisconsin citizens. Health care consumers deserve access to reliable, high-quality nutrition counseling and therapy. Unfortunately, there have been many documented cases where individuals have received poor nutrition advice from unqualified practitioners, which has led to bad medical outcomes for patients across the state.

As mentioned-above, Senate Bill 115 would create a licensing standard for dietitians and nutritionists as well as a statutory scope of practice to ensure only qualified practitioners – who have met specific education and experience requirements – are able to provide nutrition therapy. Nutrition therapy is a complex practice used to treat specific chronic illnesses, such as diabetes and heart disease.

With several of the leading causes of death in our country linked to diet and lifestyle, individuals are commonly seeking expert nutrition therapy to prevent or treat serious illness and disease. It is more important than ever to ensure only qualified health care professionals are providing the nutritional assessments and interventions that could have life-or-death implications.

By licensing dietitians and nutritionists in Wisconsin, SB 115 will increase access to advanced nutrition care. To avoid making payments to unqualified practitioners, many insurance companies require health care providers to be licensed by the state for reimbursement. If consumers don't have to pay large out-of-pocket expenses, they're more likely to take advantage of cost-effective, preventative nutrition care.

The Affinity Health System supports the Wisconsin Dietitian Licensure Bill to help improve access to the highest-quality nutrition counseling and therapy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Erik A. Emaus", written over a horizontal line.

Erik A. Emaus, DO, CPE
President, Affinity Medical Group



Healthcare Partner of



The Green Bay Packers

July 22, 2009

Wisconsin Dietetic Association
C/O Lynn Edwards, RD, CD, Executive Director
1411 West Montgomery Street
Sparta, WI 54656-1003

RE: Senate Bill 115 – Dietitian Licensure

Bellin Health System supports the Wisconsin Dietetic Association in their effort to pass Senate Bill 115, legislation that would license dietitians and nutritionists in Wisconsin and create a scope of practice for these highly-trained health care professionals.

We feel that dietitian and nutritionist licensure is a safety measure for Wisconsin citizens. At Bellin, we believe that health care consumers deserve access to reliable, high-quality nutrition counseling and therapy. Unfortunately, some individuals have received poor nutrition advice from unqualified practitioners which may have contributed to a less than desirable health outcome.

As mentioned-above, Senate Bill 115 would create a licensing standard for dietitians and nutritionists as well as a statutory scope of practice to ensure only qualified practitioners – who have meet specific education and experience requirements – are able to provide nutrition therapy. Nutrition therapy is a complex practice used to treat specific chronic illnesses, such as diabetes and heart disease.

With several of the leading causes of death in our country linked to diet and lifestyle, individuals are commonly seeking expert nutrition therapy to prevent or treat serious illness and disease. It is more important than ever to ensure only qualified health care professionals are providing these nutritional assessments and interventions.

By licensing dietitians and nutritionists in Wisconsin, SB 115 will increase access to advanced nutrition care. To avoid making payments to unqualified practitioners, many insurance companies require health care providers to be licensed by the state for reimbursement. If consumers don't have to pay large out-of-pocket expenses, they're more likely to take advantage of cost-effective, preventative nutrition care.

Bellin Health System supports the Wisconsin Dietitian Licensure Bill to help improve access to the highest-quality nutrition counseling and therapy.

Sincerely,

George Kerwin
President, CEO

THE DA²CARETM

June 9, 2009

Wisconsin Dietetic Association
C/O Lynn Edwards, RD, CD, Executive Director
1411 West Montgomery Street
Sparta, WI 54656-1003

RE: Senate Bill 115 – Dietitian Licensure

The ThedaCare Health Care Organization of Northeastern Wisconsin supports the Wisconsin Dietetic Association in their effort to pass Senate Bill 115, legislation that would license dietitians and nutritionists in Wisconsin and create a scope of practice for these highly-trained health care professionals.

Dietitian and nutritionist licensure is a safety measure for Wisconsin citizens. Health care consumers deserve access to reliable, high-quality nutrition counseling and therapy. Unfortunately, there have been many documented cases where individuals have received poor nutrition advice from unqualified practitioners, which has led to bad medical outcomes for patients across the state.

As mentioned above, Senate Bill 115 would create a licensing standard for dietitians and nutritionists as well as a statutory scope of practice to ensure only qualified practitioners – who have met specific education and experience requirements – are able to provide nutrition therapy. Nutrition therapy is a complex practice used to treat specific chronic illnesses, such as diabetes and heart disease.

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By licensing dietitians and nutritionists in Wisconsin, SB 115 will increase access to advanced nutrition care. To avoid making payments to unqualified practitioners, many insurance companies require health care providers to be licensed by the state for reimbursement. If consumers don't have to pay large out-of-pocket expenses, they're more likely to take advantage of cost-effective, preventative nutrition care.

ThedaCare supports the Wisconsin Dietitian Licensure Bill to help improve access to the highest quality nutrition counseling and therapy.

Sincerely,



Robin Wilson, MD
Vice President of Medical Affairs
ThedaCare

Gundersen Lutheran

May 11, 2009

Wisconsin Dietetic Association
C/O Lynn Edwards, RD, CD, Executive Director
1411 West Montgomery Street
Sparta, WI 54656-1003

RE: Senate Bill 115 – Dietitian Licensure

The Gundersen Lutheran Nutrition Therapy Department supports the Wisconsin Dietetic Association in their effort to pass Senate Bill 115, legislation that would license dietitians and nutritionist in Wisconsin and create a scope of practice for these highly-trained health care professionals.

Dietitian and nutritionist licensure is a safety measure for Wisconsin citizens. Health care consumers deserve access to reliable, high-quality nutrition counseling and therapy. Unfortunately, there have been many documented cases where individuals have received poor nutrition advice from unqualified practitioners, which has led to bad medical outcomes for patients across the state.


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By licensing dietitians and nutritionist in Wisconsin, SB 115 will increase access to advanced nutrition care. To avoid making payments to unqualified practitioners, many insurance companies require health care providers to be licensed by the state for reimbursement. If consumers don't have to pay large out-of-pocket expenses, they're more likely to take advantage of cost-effective, preventative nutrition care.

Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center and the Gundersen Lutheran Nutrition Therapy Department supports the Wisconsin Dietitian Licensure Bill to help improve access to the highest-quality nutrition counseling and therapy.

Sincerely,


Jennifer A. Larson, RD, CD
Administrative Director, Nutrition Therapy
Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center

Gundersen Clinic, Ltd.

1900 South Avenue • La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601 • (608) 782-7300 • (800) 362-9567 • www.gundluth.org

March 30, 2009

Wisconsin Dietetic Association
c/o Lynn Edwards RD, CD, Executive Coordinator
1411 West Montgomery St.
Sparta, WI 54656-1003

Re: Dietitian Licensure Bill

The Northeast Wisconsin Association of Diabetes Educators (NEWADE) **supports the efforts of the Wisconsin Dietetic Association and the passage of the Dietitian Licensure Bill SB:115.**

NEWADE is a 60 member, regional, multi-disciplinary professional membership organization dedicated to advancing practice of:

- diabetes self-management training and care as integral components of health care for persons with diabetes
- lifestyle management for the prevention of diabetes, including medical nutrition therapy by Registered Dietitians

The Northeast Wisconsin Association of Diabetes Educators is the leading authority in northeast Wisconsin in diabetes self-management training and in lifestyle management for the prevention of and management diabetes. NEWADE advocates for improved access to diabetes self-management training, care and lifestyle management for prevention.

Dietitians and nutritionists are not currently licenses in Wisconsin. As a result, a wide variety of people call themselves "nutrition experts". Bookstores, television infomercials and nutrition or weight loss websites are filled with an array of products and information. The public deserves to know when the information being give is based on science. They also deserve to know if the information is being given by people who have appropriate education and experience.

Licensure of dietitians and nutritionists protects the public by clearly identifying individuals that have met specific education and credentialing requirements. This bill would establish a scope of practice and title protection for Registered Dietitians (RDs), ensuring that only qualified individuals provide medical nutrition therapy for prevention and treatment of chronic diseases and medical conditions such as type 1, type 2, gestational diabetes and pre-diabetes. Thirty-five states as well as District of Columbia and Puerto Rico currently licensure dietitians.

State licensure will help improve availability of and access to high-quality nutrition services. Many Wisconsin insurance companies require licensure to reimburse health care providers so unqualified providers dispensing questionable advice are not reimbursed. **Without licensure, services may not be covered regardless of whether a physician orders them.** Since these services are highly cost-effective, the result will be a reduction in chronic disease and also in short-term and long-term savings of health care dollars.

NEWADE supports the passage of the Dietitian Licensure Bill SB 115 because of the critical nature of having access to reliable and safe nutrition information and reliable services being made readily available to professionals and consumers as we address the epidemic of diabetes in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Deb Woelfel RD, CDE
President Northeast Wisconsin Association of Diabetes Educators, President

March 16, 2009

Wisconsin Dietetic Association
C/O Lynn Edwards, RD, CD
Executive Director
1411 West Montgomery Street
Sparta, Wisconsin 54656-1003

RE: Dietitian Licensure Bill

The Wisconsin Diabetes Advisory Group (DAG) is a statewide collaborative that addresses priority areas of diabetes care and prevention to reduce the economic, social, physical, and psychological impact of diabetes in Wisconsin. DAG supports the role of the registered dietitian in Medical Nutrition Therapy for diabetes and its co morbidities such as hypertension, dyslipidemia and chronic kidney disease.

Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) is a standard of care which is outlined in the Wisconsin Essential Diabetes Mellitus Care Guidelines. Within these Guidelines we note:

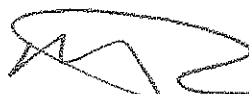
- Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) is a cornerstone of diabetes management. It is strongly recommended that a person with diabetes be referred to a registered dietitian.
- A registered dietitian (RD) has specific expert knowledge and skills to carry out the entire process from nutrition diagnosis to intervention, monitoring, and evaluation.
- Due to the complexity of diabetes nutrition issues, referral to a registered dietitian (RD) skilled in the current recommendations of diabetes care (preferably who is also a certified diabetes educator) is strongly recommended.

The Wisconsin Diabetes Advisory Group supports and promotes measures that will improve access and availability of the highest quality Medical Nutrition Therapy for people at risk or living with diabetes in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,



Diane Anderson MS, RN, BC-FNP, APNP, CDE
Wisconsin Diabetes Advisory Group



David Scheidt, OD
Wisconsin Diabetes Advisory Group

Wisconsin Partnership for Activity and Nutrition *healthy eating • physical activity • healthy weight*

February 19, 2009

Wisconsin Dietetic Association
C/O Lynn Edwards, RD, CD, Executive Director
1411 West Montgomery Street
Sparta, WI 54656-1003

RE: Dietitian Licensure Bill

The Wisconsin Partnership for Activity and Nutrition (WI PAN) supports the efforts of the Wisconsin Dietetic Association and the passage of the Dietitian Licensure Bill.

The Wisconsin Partnership for Activity and Nutrition (WI PAN) is a statewide coalition representing over 130 organizations and programs, who share the common mission of improving the health of our state's residents by decreasing overweight and obesity, improving nutrition and increasing physical activity. The *Wisconsin Nutrition and Physical Activity State Plan* provides a framework to help create and support environments that make it easier for all residents to make healthy food choices, be physically active and achieve and maintain a healthy weight. The Plan emphasizes strategies to:

- Promote and support exclusive and sustained breastfeeding
- Promote increased fruit and vegetable consumption
- Promote increased physical activity
- Reduce television time
- Reduce sweetened beverage consumption
- Reduce consumption of high-energy dense foods

Dietitians and nutritionists are not currently licensed in Wisconsin. As a result, a wide variety of people call themselves "nutrition experts". Bookstores, television infomercials and nutrition or weight loss websites are filled with an array of products and information. The public deserves to know when the information being given by "experts" is based on science. They also deserve to know if the information is being given by people who have appropriate education and experience.

Licensing of dietitians and nutritionists protects the public by clearly identifying individuals that have met specific education and credentialing requirements. This bill would establish a scope of practice and title protection for registered dietitians (RDs), ensuring that only qualified individuals are providing nutrition therapy for prevention and treatment of chronic diseases or medical conditions. Thirty-five states as well as District of Columbia and Puerto Rico currently license dietitians.

State licensing will help improve the availability and accessibility of high-quality nutrition services. Many insurance companies require licensure to reimburse healthcare professionals so that unqualified providers dispensing questionable advice are not reimbursed. **Without licensure, services may not be covered regardless of whether a physician orders them.** Since these services are highly cost-effective, the result will be a reduction in chronic disease and also in short-term and long-term savings of health care dollars.

WI PAN supports of the passage of the Dietitian Licensure Bill because of the critical nature of having access to reliable and safe nutrition information and related services being made readily available to professionals and consumers as we address the epidemic of obesity in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susan Nitzke", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Susan Nitzke, PhD, RD, CD
Wisconsin Partnership for Activity and Nutrition, Chair

September 1, 2009

Senator Tim Carpenter
Chair of Public Health, Senior Issues, Long-Term Care, and Job Creation
Room 306 South, State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7882

Dear Sen. Carpenter:

The American Dietetic Association (ADA) is partnering with the Wisconsin Dietetic Association (WDA) in support of licensure for dietitians and nutritionists in the state of Wisconsin. The reason for licensure is to accurately convey the specialized background, knowledge and skills of these health professionals so that physicians who make referrals, facilities who hire, and individuals who seek nutrition therapies can be confident of their working with the nutritionists recognized to provide specific care and services. At this time, 46 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have laws on the books recognizing the registered dietitian in that role.

As the world's largest association of food and nutrition professionals, ADA is familiar with the value of well designed and administered licensure statutes, which protect the health, safety and well being of the community's residents. In Wisconsin, proposed legislation would require those who are licensed as a dietitian nutritionist to have met specific educational and credentialing requirements that ensure competency in providing food and nutrition services on an advanced level. Wisconsin's proposal – SB 115 -- is similar to self-regulatory systems already in place and operating successfully in a majority of states.

To understand why licensure is so important, it is helpful to consider changes occurring in Americans' health and within the U.S. health care system itself. No longer are bacterial diseases our largest health threats, but of the ten leading causes of death in the United States today -- heart disease, cancer, stroke, lung disease, accidents, pneumonia/influenza, diabetes mellitus, suicide, kidney disease, and liver disease/cirrhosis -- seven are linked to diet and lifestyle. To prevent disease or promote health, the physician may recommend nutrition education or advice. However, with more serious situations, medical nutrition therapy (MNT) by qualified professionals often is called for. With MNT, the patient's nutritional status would be assessed, nutritional needs evaluated and appropriate diet interventions determined. In some cases, the patient might be counseled on basic diet and exercise, but other nutrition interventions -- for example in chronic kidney disease, hypertension and diabetes -- could have more immediate life-or-death implications. These MNT interventions sometimes involve diet prescriptions and follow-up, and even nutrition management associated with tube and intravenous feeding. The seriousness of diseases and conditions as well as the technical details

Carpenter
September 1, 2009

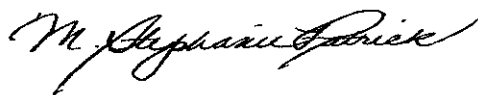
of the intervention where MNT applies underscore the requirements for qualified healthcare professionals with documented education, training and experience.

Federal statutes recognize MNT, and define the registered dietitian as the provider of "medical nutrition therapy." [Section 1861 (42 U.S.C. 1395x), 102(b)] The proposed Wisconsin statute would affirm what the federal legislation has already established, promote compliance of Wisconsin healthcare facilities with Federal regulations, and would serve as an appropriate basis for a scope of practice for dietetics specific to Wisconsin. Wisconsin already has established a policy that licenses health professionals such as dentists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, podiatrists, psychologists, and others who already are registered by their respective credentialing agencies. The same rationale is applicable to nutrition practice and MNT interventions. The state of Wisconsin should follow through with professional licensure and oversight of nutrition services at this time for the public health, safety and welfare of its citizens.

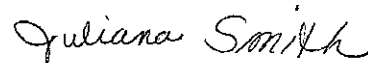
The nature of health care today also calls for establishment of requirements and use of titles with oversight by the state through licensure. With more and more services offered outside of hospitals and traditional medical facilities, physicians need to know they are sending their patients to the providers legally recognized to offer MNT interventions. Facilities who hire food and nutrition professionals need to be confident that their employees have met uniformly high academic, training, continuing education and testing requirements. SB 115 provides clarity to the public as to who is a licensed dietitian nutritionist -- and preserves people's right to choose to work with non-licensed individuals who provide nutrition information or promote the use of "nutritional supplements." Nothing in this measure will infringe upon retail or wholesale sales of "nutritional supplements" or products.

Society and individuals want access to professionals who are committed to evidence-based practice, safe care and quality improvement, and they want assurance that the services they need will be covered by third party payers. Licensure can help provide those assurances here in Wisconsin and provide clarity to physicians, facilities and nutritionists about the nature and scope of their health services.

Sincerely,



M. Stephanie Patrick
Vice President, Policy Initiatives & Advocacy



Juliana P. Smith
Director, State Government Relations

LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH 1900 and 2000

1900	Percent	2000	Percent
Tuberculosis	11.3	Heart disease	31.4
Pneumonia	10.2	Cancer	23.3
Diarrhea diseases	8.1	Stroke	6.9
Heart disease	8.0	Lung disease	4.7
Liver disease	5.2	Accidents	4.1
Injuries	5.1	Pneumonia/influenza	3.7
Stroke	4.5	Diabetes mellitus	2.7
Cancer	3.7	Suicide	1.3
Bronchitis	2.6	Kidney disease	1.0
Diphtheria	2.3	Liver disease/cirrhosis	1.0
TOTAL TOP TEN	61.0	TOTAL TOP TEN	80.1

Nestle M. Food Politics. University of California Press, 2002

Testimony in support of SB 115

Senate Public Health, Senior Issues, Long-Term care, and Job Creation Committee

Thursday September 17, 2009

Rosalyn Haase, RD, CD, CDE

My name is Rosalyn Haase. I have been a Registered Dietitian for 29 years. I have worked in many settings over the years, but for the past 15 years, I have been a diabetes dietitian. Additionally, I am a Certified Diabetes Educator and am Board Certified in Advanced Diabetes Management.

I work as an essential member of the diabetes healthcare team by helping patients learn to understand their disease and make beneficial behavioral changes to manage their blood sugar levels. I teach meal planning and nutrition management; blood glucose monitoring; insulin use; treatment of high and low blood sugar levels; and how to prevent long term complications of diabetes. I also provide assistance with diabetes medication management.

The biggest challenge for patients with diabetes is meal planning. They are frequently afraid to eat anything for fear of the effect on their blood sugar. They are usually told to watch their diet, lose weight or cut out sugar -- none of which are specific enough to promote improved clinical outcomes.

Additionally, there are many myths about what you can and can't eat if you have diabetes which are very confusing to patients. If they are lucky enough to be referred to a registered dietitian, they will get the help they need. They can then learn the effect of the foods they eat on their blood sugar levels and begin the process of adjusting what, when and how much they eat in order to: 1.) Improve their control; 2.) Regain their energy level; and 3.) Take control of their health.

Unfortunately, many people do not have access to true dietetic services -- and the lack of dietitian licensure in Wisconsin is a leading culprit. In some instances, physicians are reluctant to even refer patients to a Registered Dietitian due to concerns over financial burdens for patients.

I have had patients tell me many things over the years:

- One patient told me that she had learned more in an hour from a dietitian about diabetes and how to manage it than she had learned in the previous 10 years.
- Not two months ago, a patient told me that for the first time in her long struggle with diabetes, she finally understands how to adjust her rapid acting insulin for her food intake. She now has much more flexibility in her eating and is maintaining excellent blood sugar control.
- Another patient told me that because I took the time to assess his nutritional needs and preferences, he was able to change his insulin regimen to better suit his lifestyle. He is now able to eat his meals at less structured times without experiencing hypoglycemia.

These are all reasons why it is essential to have a Registered Dietitian, preferably one who is also a CDE, as a member of the diabetes healthcare team and why all patients deserve the opportunity to meet with a Registered Dietitian for diabetes education and management.

Many people are unaware of the role dietitians play in the management of diabetes in the primary care setting – which is where most diabetes is managed. When I was a diabetes dietitian in Medford, I collaborated with pharmacists and primary care physicians to implement an initiative designed to improve blood glucose control among patients with type 2 diabetes.

From 1999-2006, our initiative focused on offering diabetes education and Dietetic & Nutrition Therapy – provided by registered dietitians – to patients. We also provided practice guidelines and training for physicians. We were successful in implementing a diabetes registry and helping providers reach their goals in the proper care of diabetic patients. This initiative received two national awards for use of data to improve patient safety and improved clinical outcomes.

Sadly, most primary care settings do not include dietitians due to inconsistent insurance coverage for their services. To avoid making payments to unqualified practitioners, many insurance companies require health care providers to be licensed by the state for reimbursement. Consequently, many patients, who could benefit from expert dietetic and nutrition care, do not have access to it.

By licensing dietitians in Wisconsin, SB 115 will increase access to advanced nutrition care, as consumers will be more likely to take advantage of this cost-effective, preventative care if they don't have to pay large out-of-pocket expenses.

Although Registered Dietitians are an important member of diabetes care, RD's are involved in many other areas of nutrition care... where they have made a huge difference. Here are a few examples from my clinical experience:

- An RD educated an obese patient skeptical about the importance of portion control. Five years later, the patient has lost 150 pounds by paying attention to portion sizes.
- An RD helped a wheelchair bound, morbidly obese patient lose 65 pounds with meal planning and self-monitoring of calorie intake. In addition to losing the weight, he was able to being walking with a walker and avoid gastric bypass surgery – and in the process save \$40,000.
- RD's working with the WIC program have a 40 year history of eliminating iron deficiency anemia in children and pregnant women as well as reducing the incidence of low birth weight in low income women.

SB 115 will help advanced nutrition therapy become an integral part of preventative care and improve the overall wellness of Wisconsin citizens. It will also increase access to evidence-based nutrition therapy and empower the public with the confidence they are receiving care from professionals with the proper education, training and experience.

However, in closing, I would like to stress that this important legislation is not intended to, nor do I believe it would, prohibit alternative nutrition practitioners from providing their clients with guidance on healthy lifestyles or general nutrition information regarding the use of foods and dietary supplements.

I would urge you to support SB 115 – as amended – to help educate and protect the public, increase access to Dietetic & Nutrition Therapy and help improve the health of Wisconsin citizens through wellness and prevention.

Thank you. We would be happy to take any questions.

Testimony in support of SB 115

Senate Public Health, Senior Issues, Long-Term care, and Job Creation Committee

Thursday September 17, 2009

Susan Kasik-Miller, RD, CD

My name is Susan Kasik-Miller. I am a Registered Dietitian and a nutritionist at Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire. I would like to thank Senator Carpenter and members of the Committee for holding this hearing on Senate Bill 115.

In my practice in a hospital as a clinical dietitian, I have met patients who went to an alternative nutrition practitioner because they thought the alternative nutrition practitioner had education and training similar to mine. Current state law do not adequately discern between a Registered Dietitian – who has specific and defined education and training – and an alternative nutrition practitioner with indiscriminate education and expertise.

I would like to provide the committee with the following incidents where Wisconsin residents received advice from an alternative nutrition practitioner who did not have standardized education or training:

- At the urging of his wife, a 73 year old man with stage 4 kidney disease saw an alternative nutrition practitioner who placed him on a diet high in potassium and phosphorus (patients with kidney disease need to restrict both potassium and phosphorus in their diets). Following this diet caused his heart rate to slow and metabolic acidosis to develop. He was admitted to the hospital critical care unit and needed emergency dialysis.
- A 59 year old woman complained of food burning her throat and was placed on tube feedings. She consulted an alternative nutrition practitioner who diagnosed acidic blood from excess yeast and the patient was told to follow a “detox” diet for 6 months. The patient was admitted to the hospital 6 months later for severe malnutrition. She weighed 84 pounds.
- A type 2 diabetic was advised by an alternative nutrition practitioner that orange juice, sugar and glucose tablets are “poison” and that drinking water would treat low blood sugars. Following this advice caused the patient to wake up with a blood sugar of 42 (normal is 70-100).

Children have been affected by “nutritional” advice that had adverse outcomes. The following are examples where parents were given advice for their children from alternative nutrition practitioners who did not have standardized education or training:

- A mother of a 6 year old child with newly diagnosed Type 1 diabetes was told by an alternative nutrition practitioner to stop giving her child insulin because the diet she was “prescribing” would heal the pancreatic cells and cure the diabetes. The mother decided to resume insulin after an appointment with her diabetes education team when she saw no change in her child’s glucose levels.
- A one year old child was diagnosed by her to have multiple food allergies. The child’s mother sought the advice of an alternative nutrition practitioner who recommended a rice formula. The child was admitted to the hospital because of weight loss. A Registered Dietitian was consulted who determined the calorie level of the rice formula was 7 calories per ounce. Breast milk and infant formulas provide 20 calories per ounce. The RD recommended a hypoallergenic formula which allowed the child to gain weight and catch up developmentally.
- The mother of a special needs child was advised by an alternative nutrition practitioner to give her child large doses of cod liver oil and fish oil supplements to treat the toddler’s severe eczema. The mother was further advised to place the toddler on a vegetarian diet. The child developed vitamin A toxicity from these supplements which caused growth failure in the child.

I am convinced that the advice given by these alternative nutrition practitioners was provided with the best intentions and without malice. However, because these alternative nutrition practitioners were not educated or trained in nutrition science, they did not know the consequences of these actions.

The individuals seeking their advice did so to find relief from symptoms promised to be helped by diet. Unfortunately, these clients were not able to easily determine if the person providing the advice was qualified, as the state of Wisconsin does not currently license registered dietitians.

As more and more health care services are offered outside traditional medical facilities, the need to license dietitians is more important than ever.

Senate Bill 115 would accomplish that goal, and in the process, provide clear identification and validation of qualified nutrition care professionals and increase access to evidence-based nutrition therapy that can prevent and treat chronic disease.

I would urge you to support SB 115, as amended. Before we take your questions, I would like to turn it over to Rosalyn Haase.

Thank you.

Testimony in support of SB 115

Senate Public Health, Senior Issues, Long-Term care, and Job Creation Committee

Thursday September 17, 2009

Karen Lacey, MS, RD, CD

Good Morning Chairman Carpenter and members of the Senate Committee. It is my pleasure and honor to be able to testify before you today on behalf of SB 115.

My name is Karen Lacey. I have been a Registered Dietitian for nearly 40 years and currently serve as a faculty member and Director of the Dietetic Program at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. I have held this position for the past 15 years. Prior to that, I was employed as a clinical dietitian at Bellin Hospital in Green Bay and the University of Michigan Hospitals in Ann Arbor, Mich.

As a member of the American Dietetic Association, I currently serve on ADA's Association Position Committee. Previously I have served as chair of the Quality Management Committee, been a member of the House of Delegates, and been on the board of the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetic Education (CADE). I am here this morning to provide expert testimony regarding the importance of Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT); referred to in our bill as Dietetic and Nutrition Therapy (DNT), and to provide information illustrating how Registered Dietitians have the training and credentialing making them the qualified professionals to provide specialized nutrition services to patients and clients.

Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT)/ Dietetic and Nutrition Therapy (DNT):

It is important to recognize that licensure focuses on the safe provision of Dietetic Nutrition Therapy (DNT) by Registered Dietitians; it is not a restriction of others who provide general nutrition information and education to individuals or the public. There is a distinct difference between Nutrition Therapy and nutrition education. "MNT is nutritional diagnostic, therapy, and counseling services for the purpose of disease management which are furnished by a registered dietitian ..." (source Medicare MNT legislation, 2000). It is a specific application of the Nutrition Care Process (a systematic and standardized process that involves a comprehensive

nutrition assessment, identification of nutrition problems or nutrition diagnoses, nutrition interventions and monitoring and evaluation of outcomes) that in clinical settings is focused on the management of diseases. *Nutrition Counseling* is supportive processes to set priorities, establish goals, and create individualized action plans which acknowledge and foster responsibility for self-care. DNT and Nutrition Counseling differ from providing Nutrition Education to others, which is reinforcement of basic or essential nutrition-related knowledge. Others before this committee today will provide examples of how RDs provide DNT using the nutrition care process.

Evidenced Based Practice

Secondly I would like to emphasize that, like other licensed healthcare providers, the practice of the registered dietitian is based on scientific evidence. The concept of Evidenced –based practice (EBP) is a recognized standard of practice for health professionals. Evidence-Based Dietetics Practice is the use of systematically reviewed scientific research to make decisions when proving DNT. By integrating the best available evidence with professional expertise and client values outcomes are improved. ADA's rigorous process of evidence analysis is used as a standard by other health professions. The **Joint Commission for Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO)** recognizes it as an exemplary process for bringing the best research to practice; **FDA** adapted ADA's process to assess the type of qualified health claim that can be put on food labels; **USDA, DHHS, and FDA** staff are trained in evidence analysis by ADA staff. **Evidenced-based practice** (along with rigorous training, supervised practice, and mandatory continuing education) is what distinguishes the credible registered dietitian from the unqualified provider of nutrition therapy.

Standards of Professional Performance and Standards of Nutrition Care

Registered Dietitians use two other important documents to maintain high quality practice; the Standards of Professional Performance and the Standards of Nutrition Care. These documents promote:

- safe, effective, and efficient food and nutrition services;
- evidence-based practice;
- improved health care and food and nutrition service-related outcomes;
- continuous quality improvement;

- dietetics research, innovation, and practice development; and
- development of the individual RDs

Education and Training of Registered Dietitians

In the few remaining minutes I will detail the rigorous education and training of registered dietitians. **Registered Dietitians** have (1) received a Baccalaureate degree granted by a U.S. regionally accredited college or university, (2) completed academic requirements from an ADA, Commission on Accreditation for Dietetic Education (CADE) accredited college or university, (3) completed a CADE accredited supervised practice dietetic internship, consisting of a minimum of 900 practice hours and (4) successfully passed the national Registration Examination for Dietitians. To remain credentialed with the American Dietetic Association as a Registered Dietitians, 75 hours of approved continuing professional education must be completed every five years. It is noteworthy that the required number of supervised practice hours now in an internship has recently increased to 1200 hours.

The accredited coursework and supervised practice provides the knowledge and skills to be able to meet the following practice competencies of the profession:

- **Scientific and Evidence Base of Practice: Integrate scientific information and research into practice**
 - Evaluate research, conduct research and apply evidence based-guidelines to practice
- **Professional Practice expectations: beliefs, values, attitudes and behaviors for the professional dietitian level of practice:**
 - Practice within the ADA scope of practice framework, code of ethics for the profession of dietetics, standards of professional performance
 - Use effective education and counseling skills to facilitate behavior change
 - Develop a professional development plan as defined by the Commission on Dietetic Registration (75 CPU/5 years)

- **Clinical and Customer Services: develop and deliver information, products and services to individuals, groups and populations**
 - Perform the Nutrition Care Process and use standardized language for populations of differing ages and health status
 - Nutrition assessment
 - Nutrition diagnoses
 - Nutrition intervention
 - Nutrition monitoring and evaluation
 - Deliver science-based answers to questions

In summary; passing of SB 115 is critical to the overall health of Wisconsin by ensuring only qualified professionals can provide DNT. Registered Dietitians are best able to provide safe and high quality Dietetic Nutrition Therapy by using the latest scientific evidence; maintaining high standards of professional integrity; meeting and exceeding expectations of our clients and patients and using the standardized nutrition care process in order to obtain desired health outcomes.

Senate Bill 115 is smart health care policy that will provide confidence to Wisconsin health care consumers seeking advanced nutrition care... increase access to Dietetic and Nutrition Therapy and drive down health care costs. I would urge the committee to support this important legislation.

Thank you again for your interest and attention to this testimony. I am available to answer any additional questions you may have regarding the content of my testimony.

Karen Lacey, MS, RD, CD

Senior Lecturer & Director of Dietetic Program; UW-Green Bay

500 St. Mary's Blvd, Green Bay WI

920-336-3607



LICENSURE TALKING POINTS:

SENATE BILL 115 – AS AMENDED

The licensure of dietitians will protect citizens & increase access to nutrition therapy

- SB 115 will license dietitians in Wisconsin and create a scope of practice for these highly trained nutrition experts. **As a result:**
 - SB 115 will ensure only qualified practitioners, who have met certain education and training requirements, are able to provide evidence-based nutrition therapy to treat specific chronic diseases.
 - SB 115 will increase access to advanced nutrition care
(*Note:* many insurance companies require health providers to be licensed to qualify for reimbursement).

Registered dietitians are uniquely qualified to provide nutrition therapy and should be recognized through licensure for their education and experience

- RD's are required to hold (at least) a bachelor's degree and complete 900 hours of supervised practice.
- RD's are required to pass a standardized national exam.
- Continuing education is required for all RD's.

Thirty-five states already license dietitians to protect their citizens

- It's time for Wisconsin to take this very important step to help citizens easily identify properly trained and educated nutrition professionals.

Dietitian Licensure WILL NOT:

- Impact businesses or individuals that sell/market food products or dietary supplements.
- Restrict alternative practitioners (i.e., naturopaths) from using the title *nutritionist*.
- Prohibit alternative practitioners from providing their clients with guidance on healthy lifestyles or general nutrition information regarding the use of foods and dietary supplements.
- Prevent licensed or certified healthcare professionals from practicing within their scope of practice.

The changing nature of health care makes dietitian licensure extremely important, as

- More healthcare services are offered outside traditional medical facilities.
- Greater need for clear identification and validation of credentials is necessary to protect the public.

The Licensure Act has NO state fiscal impact

- Any costs associated with licensure of dietitians will be covered by required licensing fees.



Testimony in support of SB 115

Senate Public Health, Senior Issues, Long-Term Care, and Job Creation Committee

September 17, 2009

Lynn Edwards, R.D., C.D.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. My name is Lynn Edwards. I am a Registered Dietitian and am certified to practice in the state of Wisconsin. I am also a past president and the current Executive Coordinator of the Wisconsin Dietetic Association. I am here today, along with Gail Underbakke, to testify in favor of Senate Bill 115.

The Wisconsin Dietetic Association is comprised of 1,700 food and nutrition professionals and is an affiliate of the American Dietetic Association, a national organization with membership approaching 70,000. We are committed to improving the health of Wisconsin residents through food and nutrition.

Registered Dietitians work in a variety of settings, including hospitals & clinics, physician offices, public health programs, schools & universities, nutrition education programs, workplace wellness sites, fitness facilities and the food industry.

Registered Dietitians are the most credible source of nutrition information and are committed to improving the overall health and well-being of all individuals, regardless of age, sex, health condition or economic status.

Senate Bill 115 is straightforward legislation with two simple objectives: 1.) To provide the public with the confidence they are receiving advanced nutrition care from qualified practitioners; and 2.) To increase access to advanced nutrition care, which is a vital component of effective health care reform.

As you know, SB 115 would license – rather than certify – dietitians in Wisconsin and create a scope of practice for these highly-trained nutrition experts.

That leads to the question.... why is it important to license dietitians?

For the same reason the state licenses other health care professionals: *To clearly identify who is qualified to provide care for the public and to protect the public from potential harm.*

SB 115 will ensure only qualified practitioners, who have met certain education and training requirements, are able to provide Medical Nutrition Therapy, which referred to in the bill as Dietetic & Nutrition Therapy. Dietetic & Nutrition Therapy, or DNT, is a complex practice used to treat specific chronic disease and wellness. DNT can help reduce complications of chronic disease, decrease the length of hospital stays, reduce obesity and lower health care costs.

Unfortunately, while current state law prohibits uncertified or unlicensed alternative nutrition practitioners from providing dietetic services, it does not specifically prevent them from providing DNT. As a result, individuals seeking advanced nutrition care routinely receive harmful advice from under-qualified practitioners.

Only registered dietitians possess the necessary education and experience to provide Dietetic & Nutrition Therapy. In fact, the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences, has identified dietitians as the single group of health care professionals with the training, knowledge, and national credentialing requirement to be a direct provider of Nutrition Therapy.

Senate Bill 115 will provide health care consumers with the confidence they're receiving evidence-based nutrition therapy and counseling from qualified nutrition professionals. It will also provide greater assurance to referring-physicians and health care facilities that hire dietitians.

Additionally, dietitian licensure will help increase access to advanced nutrition services, as many third-party payers require health care providers to be licensed by the state to qualify for reimbursement.

With several of the leading causes of death in our country linked to diet and lifestyle, individuals are commonly seeking expert nutrition care to prevent or treat serious illness and disease. It's more important than ever to ensure only qualified health care professionals are providing the advanced nutritional assessments and interventions that could have life-or-death implications.

Thirty-five states across the country already license dietitians, and we believe it is time for Wisconsin to follow suit and highlight the important role evidence-based nutrition care plays in the overall wellness of our citizens.

While the WDA strongly supports SB 115, we do not believe the licensure of dietitians should come at the expense of alternative nutrition practitioners. By no means do we want to drive these individuals out of business or limit consumer choice.

Despite accusations to the contrary, SB 115 is not "fence me out" legislation.

I'm sure you have all had your offices flooded with phone calls, letters and e-mails from alternative nutrition practitioners claiming SB 115 will create a monopoly over food... limit free speech... create unemployment and business closures... increase state spending... and raise the cost of nutrition care.

There has also been criticism directed at the American Dietetic Association, claiming the organization is a shill for corporate food giants and supports unhealthy nutrition protocols. You will find an ADA white paper in your folder that clearly explains their corporate sponsor program and how it's designed to ensure independence and credibility.

All of the allegations I just mentioned are unfounded and are designed to be misleading and cloud the debate on SB 115. They have no basis in fact and fail to take into consideration that none of the aforementioned problems have occurred in the other 35 states that license dietitians. The alternative nutrition industry continues to thrive in those states.

Having said that, the WDA is committed to working in good faith, both as nutrition professionals... and in the legislative process.

As a result, over the past several months, the WDA has worked closely with the bill's author and other stakeholders to specifically address concerns expressed by alternative nutrition practitioners. The end product of those negotiations is a pending substitute amendment to SB 115. While the substitute amendment secures the integrity and original intent of the bill, it also ensures the viability of alternative nutrition practitioners in the marketplace.

Under the compromise sub-amendment, which the WDA supports:

- **Alternative nutrition practitioners can specifically use the title of *nutritionist*;**
- **Alternative nutrition practitioners are authorized to provide limited services within the dietitian scope of practice created in the bill. For example, they would be able to provide their clients with guidance on healthy lifestyles and general nutrition information, including but not limited to the use of foods, food and dietary supplements, vitamins, minerals, herbs, amino acids and enzymes; and**
- **Alternative practitioners will be required to give written disclosure to their clients stating they are not licensed by the state or authorized to provide a medical diagnosis or recommendation.**

While the WDA was comfortable with the original draft of SB 115, we understand compromise is often a necessary part of the legislative process and feel the proposed sub-amendment is fair to all parties – including, and most importantly, the health care consumers of this state.

To sum it up, the sub-amendment to SB 115 will not drive alternative nutrition practitioners out of business. Rather, it will secure their position in the marketplace.

Further, the amended legislation will continue to ensure only Registered Dietitians – nutritional professionals who hold at least a bachelor's degree in dietetics or nutrition, have completed a minimum of 900 hours of supervised practice, passed a standardized national examination and kept current through ongoing continuing education – can provide advanced Dietetic & Nutrition Therapy and care.

You may ask why it's important that only qualified dietitians, licensed by the state, be allowed to provide DNT.... Let me provide you with a few examples.

Many alternative nutrition practitioners claim they have extensive training and education in the science and cultural aspects of nutrition. While there is no doubt many of these alternative practitioners possess valuable knowledge, they typically do not have a formal education in food or nutrition science. However, it's common for alternative practitioners to hold "degrees" from online diploma mills. The requirements to qualify for these programs and the educational standards necessary to "earn" a degree for these virtual institutions are minimal at best.

One of the most notorious online degree mills is the American Association of Nutrition Consultants. In the folders in front of you, you will find a press release that outlines the academic career of Sir Eddie, the dog of a former American Dietetic Association president, who earned credentials from the American Association of Nutrition Consultants!

Another recent example illustrating the need for SB 115 and dietitian licensure is the case surrounding an alternative nutrition practitioner who served as a guest lecturer for a nurse practitioners course at a northern Wisconsin university. In your folder you will find the lecture notes along with testimony from several physicians and other health care professionals who reviewed the notes and identified numerous fallacies and misinformation. They also provided commentary. One reviewer stated that, "Although I was not present at the actual lecture, I find the information that was distributed to be unfounded and potentially harmful. The most critical is the implication that this presenter is able to cure inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) based on diet alone."

Please take a few minutes to review this document, as the information is eye opening and clearly illustrates why SB 115 is critical health care policy.

Again, these are just two examples of why SB 115 is necessary to empower health care consumers, arming them with the knowledge of who is and – more importantly – who isn't qualified to provide them with advance nutrition therapy and care.

I think it's also important to point out that SB 115 is supported by a variety of reputable health care-related organizations, including the Wisconsin Medical Society, the Wisconsin Nurses Association, Children's Hospital and Clinics of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Public Health Association, the American Heart Association and many others.

In closing, I would like to reiterate that WDA believes SB 115 is essential health care policy that will provide Wisconsin citizens with the confidence they are receiving advanced nutrition care from qualified practitioners. The bill will also increase patient access to Dietetic and Nutrition Therapy, which has been proven to prevent and treat chronic disease and save health care dollars in the process.

The Wisconsin Dietetic Association would we urge you to support SB 115 – and the pending substitute amendment. Thank you for your consideration of this bill. At this time, Gail and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Wisconsin Consumer Health Freedom Bill

**Wisconsin
Health Freedom Coalition**
PO Box 53
Sheldon, WI 54766

Syncha Maniscalco:
synchaa@gmail.com
715-452-5566
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WIHFC.com
A Wisconsin 501(c)(4) Non Profit
Corporation Lobbying for Consumer Choice



Protects
Wisconsin
Citizens'
Access
to Natural
Health
Services

LRB-1002/P1

August 29, 2009

Wisconsin Consumer Health Freedom Bill

Out-of-pocket costs for CAM (Complimentary and Alternative Medicine) **\$33.9 billion**

National Health Statistics Reports Number 18 July 30, 2009

In 2007, 40% of adults in the United States spent **\$33.9 billion** out of pocket on visits to CAM practitioners and purchases of CAM products, classes, and materials.
(For a market comparison: Coca Cola and Pepsi sales total **\$60.1 billion**.)

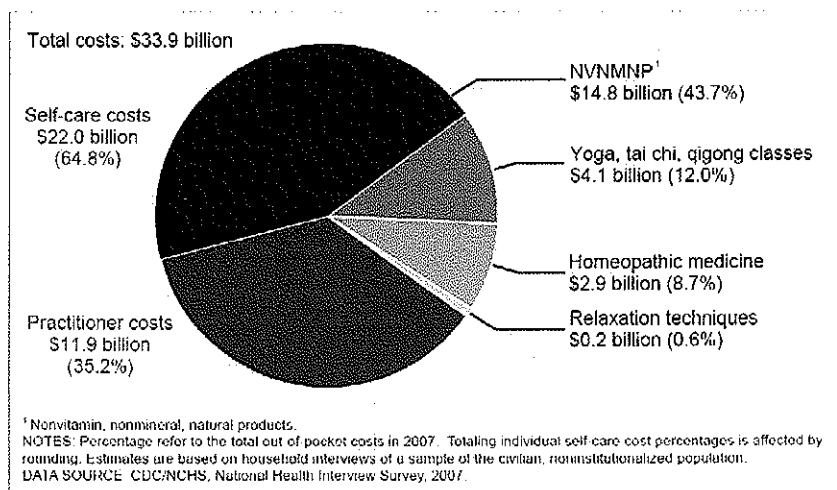


Figure. Out-of-pocket costs for complementary and alternative medicine among adults aged 18 years and over: United States, 2007

- \$22.0 billion on self-care costs
- \$14.8 billion spent on non-vitamin, non-mineral natural products
- \$11.9 out-of-pocket (OOP) on practitioners such as chiropractic, osteopathic manipulation, naturopathy and chelation therapy
- \$4.1 billion on yoga (equal to 12% of the total)
- \$2.9 billion on homeopathy
- \$0.2 billion on relaxation techniques



Wisconsin Consumer Health Freedom Bill

WHAT WILL THE CONSUMER HEALTH FREEDOM BILL DO FOR WISCONSIN CITIZENS?

- Protect Wisconsin health seekers' rights to access natural and nutritional healing protocols.
- Maintain public access to unlicensed natural health providers.
- Protect natural health providers from being prosecuted for providing advice and services that do no harm.
- Maintain public access to persons who sell nutrition supplements or provide nutrition education.
- Protect traditional, cultural therapies and remedies practiced historically by persons who are not licensed or regulated by the state.
- Protect natural health traditions, information, and practices for generations to come.



Wisconsin Consumer Health Freedom Bill

Examples of Wisconsin Natural Health Services Protected by the Bill

- Naturopathic Doctors
- Nutritionists
- Homeopathy Practitioners
- Holistic Health Practitioners
- Herbalists
- Health Food Stores
- Aromatherapists
- Ethnic Healers
- Nutrition Coaches
- Weight Loss Coaches
- Athletic Trainers
- Network-based Nutritional Supplement Retailers
- Organic & Conventional Farmers
- Those who sell nutritional supplements.
- Those who provide nutritional education.



Wisconsin Consumer Health Freedom Bill

Wisconsin's 16,000+ Natural Health Service Providers

Please note this list is not all inclusive. It is a sampling of some providers in the state of Wisconsin. Estimated numbers are marked with an asterisk.

Type of Provider	Comments	Numbers
Naturopathic Doctors	Traditional naturopathic doctors provide nutrition-based suggestions as a part of their approach.	25*
Nutritionists	Wisconsin nutritionists practice natural nutrition, not dietetics.	600*
Homeopaths	These providers also advise on nutrition	50
Herbalists	Wisconsin has a long history of herbal healing	70*
Health Food Stores	Consumers depend on health food stores for specific nutrition information	140
Aromatherapists	These providers also advise on nutrition	unknown
Ethnic Healers	Chinese, Ayurveda, Native American, Hmong healers etc.	unknown
Nutrition Coaches	There are many nutrition coaches providing service in many different venues	unknown
Nutrition Retailers	At least 14 companies, plus a large number of home businesses operating in Wisconsin	15,000*
Natural Health Schools	Wisconsin enrollees in 4 schools	786*
Natural Supplement	Wisconsin-based major companies with national and international presence	6
Natural Nutrition Distributors	Wisconsin-based wholesale suppliers	2
Wisconsin Weston A. Price Chapters	20 Wisconsin chapters dedicated to restoring nutrient-dense foods to the human diet through education	183*
Total	Verified plus estimated	>16,862*



Wisconsin Consumer Health Freedom Bill

Minnesota, California, Rhode Island,

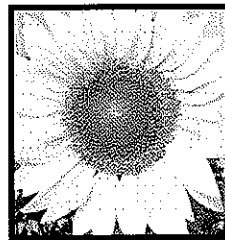
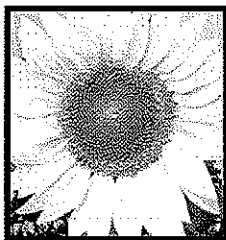
Louisiana, Idaho, Oklahoma, and

New Mexico have enacted

Health Freedom legislation.

It is now time to enact a similar Health

Freedom law in Wisconsin.



SECTION 1. 146.86 of the statutes is created to read:

146.86 Provision of certain services related to health. (1) In this section:

(a) "Controlled substance" has the meaning given in s. 961.01 (4).

(b) "Deliver" has the meaning given in s. 450.01 (5).

(c) "Device" has the meaning given in s. 450.01 (6).

(d) "Dispense" has the meaning given in s. 450.01 (7).

(e) "Health care professional" means any of the following:

1. An individual who acts within the scope of his or her applicable license, registration, permit, or certification and to whom any of the following applies:

a. Is licensed as a tattooist under s. 252.23.

b. Is licensed as a body piercer under s. 252.24.

c. Is licensed or permitted as an emergency medical technician under s. 256.15 (5).

d. Is certified for performance of defibrillation under s. 256.15 (6g).

e. Is certified as a first responder under s. 256.15 (8).

f. Has a license, permit, or certificate of certification or registration that is issued under subch.

VII, XI, or XII of ch. 440 or under ch. 441, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 454, 455, 457, 459, or 460.

2. An individual who acts within the scope of a state-approved training and testing program and meets requirements for a feeding assistant under s. 146.40 (1) (aw).

3. An individual who acts within the scope of an approved instruction program and an approved competency evaluation program and meets requirements for a nurse aide under s. 146.40 (2).

(h) "Health care practitioner" means an individual who provides health care services, but who is not a health care professional.

(i) "Prescription drug" has the meaning given in s. 450.01 (20).

(2) Notwithstanding ss. 252.23 (3), 252.24 (3), 256.15 (2) and (5) (d), 440.88 (5)

and (6), 440.98 (8) and (9), 440.982 (1), 441.06 (4), 441.15 (2), 446.02 (1), 447.03 (1)

and (2), 448.03 (1) (a), (b), and (c) and (1m), 448.51 (1), 448.61, 448.961 (1) and (2),

449.02 (1), 450.03 (1), 451.04 (1), 454.04, 455.02, 457.04, 459.02 (1), 459.24 (1), and

460.02, a health care practitioner who provides to an individual services related to health

does not violate s. 252.23 (3), 252.24 (3), 256.15 (2) or (5) (d), 440.982 (1), 441.06 (4),

441.15 (2), 446.02 (1), 447.03 (1) or (2), 448.03 (1) (a), (b), or (c) or (1m), 448.51 (1),

448.61, 448.961 (1) and (2), 449.02 (1), 450.03 (1), 451.04 (1), 454.04, 455.02, 457.04,

459.02 (1), 459.24 (1), or 460.02, and is not subject to action under s. 440.98 (8) or (9),

Sept. 14, 2007

Midwest Nutrition Service

I am writing about the meeting on Nutrition Services On bill 115 concerning the licensure of dietitians. It is my understanding that you want to change the law on our Nutritional Service. That we would have to have a Dietary License person for us to be able to get our natural health perception.

Practitioners & our health food stores any advice whatsoever concerning nutrition no matter their background educational level. Why do you want to do this? We people who look for Nutritional help know more what we want for our health than a Dietary person and we don't have to pay for it. They know what is good for us with no side effect. This bill is just to make money for the doctor's & the Dietary person to fill their pockets. Why can't you people leave good things alone? But that wouldn't put money in your pockets would it?

Regina M. Kessel

223 Church St.

Regina, Mi 48061

From: Diana Wood <dianawood@mac.com>

To: kristine@totalhealthinc.com

Date: 09/16/2009 05:04 PM

Subject: SB 115

To Senate Committee regarding SB 115,

I respectfully urge you to oppose and not co-sponsor SB 115!

As an informed consumer of nutritional products & naturopathic services I find this bill **insulting to my intelligence.**

I have a degree in Family & Consumer Science and taught nutrition for over 30 year in Milwaukee Public Schools. According to SB 115, nutrition could no longer be taught in public schools by teachers of Health and Family & Consumer Science, since these teachers would not be licensed dietitians or nutritionist (the only professions allowed to dispense nutrition information in SB115).

As a consumer, it is my right to choose where and from whom I get my nutritional information, products and health services. As presently written SB 115 will take away my these rights. I receive excellent natural products and up to date health services from Marty Johnson (naturopath) and his staff at Total Health in Menomonee Falls, WI; services I plan to continue using. SB 115 could put this valuable natural health business & its employees out of business!

I again, urge you to oppose SB 115!

Respectfully,
Diana Wood

Dear HR Department/& Employer,

Date:

Re: Benefit Plan

I am asking that you add Alternative Health Associates, Ltd, to our plan. We have been referred to a specialized Doctor who is a Board Certified Naturopathic Doctor, Board Certified Orofacial Myologist and a Licensed Dental Hygienist. Dr. Gail Kopin RDH COM ND is an integrated professional. Dr. Kopin works with children and adults for preventive and or alternative health care. Matter of fact, the costs of her therapy, lab analysis screenings, and services are much lower then conventional medicine. Approximately 75% lower. This is a huge savings to us the employer and the insurance company. I believe Dr. Kopin's methods of finding the root and the cause of the problems help eliminate many extra costs in the future.

If you want to keep our company costs down, you may want to seriously consider adding Naturopathic Doctors, and Orofacial Myologists to the benefit plan. It surely makes sense to me. Here is our Doctors name, address and board certification numbers. Enclosed is copy of her brochure and services.

Alternative Health Associates, Ltd.

Dr. Gail Kopin N. D.

504 S Rand Road

Lake Zurich, IL 60047

#847-955-0800 email: DrGailND@alternativehealthassoc.com

www.alternativehealthassoc.com

American Alternative Medical Association/ Board Certification # 60202604

American Association of Drugless Practitioners/Board Certification # 72862604

International Association of Orofacial Myology/Board Certification # 114-C-97

Licensed Dental Hygienist # 0200005872

Please call me with your remarks.

Dr.Gail Kopin/Alternative Health Associates

Dr. Gail Kopin

From: Melissa Gorn [sasifras@email.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2009 3:19 PM
To: Gail Kopin
Subject: opposition letter

To whom it may concern,

En light of the new health referendum, I am opposed to these changes listed in SB 115. If anyone is educated in nutritional supplementation it would be those of the holistic alternative background, because they believe in whole natural, organic way of life. Feeding the body through vegetation rather than chemicals is the only alternative that is the proper alternative. And i seek that advice from my Naturopath on a regular basis.

Sincerely,

Melissa Gorn

--
An Excellent Credit Score is 750
See Yours in Just 2 Easy Steps!

Dr. Gail Kopin

From: Laura Seal [lorpee1@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2009 3:18 PM
To: Gail Kopin
Subject: Opposition letter

To whom it may concern,

En light of the new health referendum, I am opposed to these changes listed in SB 115. If anyone is educated in nutritional supplementation it would be those of the holistic alternative background, because they believe in whole natural, organic way of life. Feeding the body through vegetation rather than chemicals is the only alternative that is the proper alternative. And i seek that advice from my Naturopath on a regular basis.

Sincerely,

Laura Seal

Dona J. Meyer

**1921 Fremont Ave
Madison WI 53704**

September 17, 2009

RE: Restrictive Dietary Licensing Legislation bill, SB115

Dear Sir/Madam:

SB115

I want to officially speak against the Dietitian/Nutritionist licensure bill, ~~AB115~~

My experience with medical doctors and dietitian/nutritionalists has been a negative one.

I have been affected in an extremely positive way by people who are not registered dietitian/nutritionists. In fact, I think that some dietitians/nutritionists give incorrect advice for some people. I have been told to eat foods that have made me ill for many years because of a dietitian/nutritionalist. She did not take into account food allergies and other issues that could negatively affect someone like myself. In fact, many years ago, I saw a dietitian due to some health concerns, and she told me to eat the foods that ended up being bad for me. Between her and my medical doctor, neither took the time to find out what my real health issues were before prescribing drugs and special foods. Only through a naturopathic doctor, did I get healthy and find out that I am allergic to wheat, beef and intolerant to dairy. The dietitian said to eat wheat bread, lean beef and lots of dairy. With my medical doctor and dietitian, I gained weight, felt awful and in my opinion, could have caused many other health issues. In fact, since I have completely gone off wheat, my asthma is completely gone and my weight is at a good level. I completely feel that this is due to my naturopathic doctor and clinic finding out what my problems were before telling me what I needed to eat and what supplements to take.

I do not believe that dietitians/nutritionists are really trained appropriately for **all** people. Some it works for and others **NEED** other resources that are crucial to the health of Wisconsin and the United States. In fact, I believe that they (dietitians/nutritionists) have a tendency to **NOT** be trained well enough on all levels. Just look at the many times the "food chart-food pyramid" has been changed. They also seem to suggest mostly processed foods and not enough natural, fresh foods in my experience. This bill would only give them a monopoly on health and that is just wrong. We all need alternatives.

There is no reason to make this bill a law because all it is doing is making Dietitians/Nutritionists rich in money and the rest of American poor in health. America is supposed to give freedom of religion and all other issues. Give us the freedom to choose our own health care professionals. That is what America is all about. Keep America healthy and allow us to make our own choices. Keep the government out of the mix, please.

I greatly appose this bill. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Dona Meyer

Suzan Maas
W3480 Luttmann dr
Watertown, WI, 53094

Senators,

Please vote against bill SB115. It would take away rights of many Health Practitioners who have helped many people such as myself through natural means.

I received help from several practitioners concerning Lyme Disease that I was diagnosed with. Through their help in suggesting juicing of vegetables, using essential oils, taking natural vitamins and doing other simple things, I am able to live a very normal life, and no longer have the pain and complications that lyme disease brings.

My brother, who is battling cancer and has been on chemo for the last 7 months, has not lost his hair and has not had a lot of other complications that other people have had, because of the advice of natural practitioners. His white blood cell is also up amazingly high, because of the natural things he's been doing.

Please vote against this bill that would inhibit so many Health Practitioners who have helped so many people through natural means.

Thank You,
Suzan Maas

Nutritional Testimony

My name is Missy and I have been helped numerous times by natural health practitioners. One of the many times that I was helped was about 1 year ago when I had a rotator cuff injury. I could raise my arm no more than a few inches from my body, so I went to see the doctor. He suggested medication and said there's a 50% chance that I would need surgery. Instead of medication and surgery, a naturalist suggested an essential oil called "pan away", as well as some physical therapy. I took their advice and within a couple of weeks I could raise my arm straight up in the air without pain. What is the purpose of passing this bill when millions of people are helped by natural health practitioners?

Melissa Bauer
N8000 Woody Lane
Ixonia, WI 53036

ALLISON E. SORENSEN

6535 Brever Rd.
Burlington, WI 53105
262-539-2288

September 14, 2009

The Honorable Neal Kedzie
Wisconsin State Senate
Room 126 South
State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Kedzie:

I am writing to urge you to oppose SB-115, the Dietician Licensing bill which, if passed, would jeopardize my freedom to choose alternative nutrition services that are right for me and my family.

I feel the SB-115 will severely limit my choice of the natural, alternative, holistic and traditional care options that I now can choose. I, along with over 40% of all Americans, have chosen to investigate alternative health care options as either a means to address a health issue or as a form of preventative care. I currently am a patient of Dr. Gail Kopin, of Alternative Health Associates located in Lake Zurich IL and Lake Geneva, WI. Dr. Kopin is a board certified Naturopathic Alternative Practitioner through the Alternative Medical Association and the Association of Drugless Practitioners. I have experienced many health successes with Dr. Kopin by using complementary health care, alternative medicines, supplements and nutritional counseling. I feel that my health and the health of my family would be extremely compromised without our freedom to choose her services.

The restrictions of this bill would also effect our current fragile economy by severely damaging the careers of the more than 600 nutrition professionals who currently practice in Wisconsin and adversely impact the businesses of more than 1,000 health food stores.

I urge you to vote no for bill SB-115 so that all of us who use some form of nutritional, natural, and alternative health care options can continue to enjoy that freedom of choice. I would encourage the Senate and Assembly instead to look to our consumer protections laws that are currently available to provide the protection that this bill is trying to achieve. Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

Allison E. Sorensen

cc. Dr. Gail Kopin, Alternative Health Associates

Dr. Gail Kopin

From: Audrey Taylor [ataylor@stannebarrington.org]
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2009 9:35 AM
To: Sen.Kedzie@legis.wisconsin.gov
Cc: DrGailND@AlternativeHealthAssoc.com
Subject: Re: SB 115 Kill Dietician and Protect the Consumers Choice and Health Freedom

September 14, 2009

Dear Senator Kedzie,

I am 68 years old and in good health and I believe all of this is because of the alternative health care I have undergone for years.

I do not cost the system anything. I'm not even on medicare because I am still working full time. I attribute all of this to my

acupuncture, supplements, and naturopathic care. And all of these things I paid for out of my own pocket. Please consider

that there are hundreds of Americans using these alternative opportunities and vote accordingly on this bill. Our good health

benefits the national economy as well. Please keep our naturopathic physicians available to us.

Thank you for considering my view.

Audrey Taylor

Dr. Gail Kopin

From: Sally Prio [sprio@keeferealestate.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2009 9:41 PM
To: DrGailND@AlternativeHealthAssoc.com
Cc: Sally Prio
Subject: Dr Gail - letter also emailed to Senator Kedzie

Dear Dr. Kopin,

I have been using alternative health care, alternative medicines and supplements for over 5 years and have been happy and have had better health because of CAM. In fact in the last month my blood test results showed my thyroid in the above average levels. My Medical Doctor quickly prescribed a very costly daily thyroid pill (\$50/month) to take for 6 months (x6 = \$300) and then recheck. I was very upset because I could not afford this. The next day I went to my Naturopath Doctor and she prescribed a liquid Iodine supplement that cost under \$20 for the month. I just rechecked and my thyroid is down to the normal range... in 1 month... for \$18. I am so pleased and so is my pocketbook!!

I thought you should be aware of this.

Thank you for your support.

Sally

Sally Prio

Keefe Real Estate
751 Geneva Parkway
Lake Geneva WI 53147
Cell: 262-203-2782
Direct: 262-348-3225
Fax: 262-248-8225
Email: sprio@KeefeRealEstate.com
Website: www.SallyPrio.com
Website: www.KeefeRealEstate.com

Dr. Gail Kopin

From: Cindy Skarda [k_9coach@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2009 8:11 AM
To: DrGailND@AlternativeHealthAssoc.com
Subject: Fw: Alternative Health care

--- On Wed, 9/16/09, Cindy Skarda <k_9coach@yahoo.com> wrote:

From: Cindy Skarda <k_9coach@yahoo.com>
Subject: Alternative Health care
To: Sen.Kedzie@legis.wisconsin.gov
Date: Wednesday, September 16, 2009, 1:09 PM

Hi,

I am asking you to defeat any bill or legislation that will limit alternative health care. I believe it is a great way to help keep health care cost down. Prevention and natural alternatives need to be a strong component of peoples health care choices. Staying well is the best way to keep health care cost down!! I use alternative health care along with traditional western medicine. Since when did good food and natural vitamins and supplements became alternative??I would think common sense would tell you that drugs and chemicals are the alternative to what the body needs naturally! It seems to me we have it back words! The American people want freedom and choices when it comes to their health care.

Thank you,
Cindy Skarda

Dr. Gail Kopin

From: daisy940@aol.com
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2009 10:54 AM
To: Sen.Kedzie@legis.wisconsin.gov
Cc: DrGailND@alternativehealthassoc.com
Subject: Alternative Health Care

September 14, 2009

Dear Honorable Senator Kedzie,

My name is Linda Brocato and I have mercury induced Multiple Sclerosis from dental amalgam fillings. After 3 hospitalizations, 8 different medications including oral and intravenous chemotherapy, experimental plasmaphoresis etc., I found out about the "mercury" in the dental amalgam fillings. After the 16 amalgam fillings were removed all HOSPITALIZATIONS, MEDICATIONS AND RELAPSES gradually subsided but this left me in a wheelchair. The protocol now is to detoxify using complementary/ alternative health care, alternative medicines, supplements, nutritional advice, homeopathics, etc.to regain ambulation.

Sincerely,

Linda Brocato

Dr. Gail Kopin

From: Audra Bueschel [flamingogirl68@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2009 7:51 AM
To: Dr. Gail Kopin; Sen.Kedzie@legis.wisconsin.gov
Subject: Please Oppose Bill SB115

Dear Dr. Kopin,

All I can say to you is...THANK YOU!!!!!! Without people like you in the alternative health field, I would still be struggling to gain optimal health.

I tell everyone I can about you and the alternatives they have for living their best life.

I am vehemently opposed to bill SB115 and I pray for you and the others going to Madison this week that it does not pass.

Thanks for keeping us all posted on its progress.

Thanks again for all that you do. You are truly one of God's angels here on earth!!!!

Good luck!
Audra Bueschel

P.S. I hope you are feeling better...thank goodness we have some great alternative flu remedies!!!

Thomas or to whom it may concern

Please speak up on all of our behalf.
About natural health nutrition. There
are a lot of people who need and use
the advise & knowledge all the ones
who advise us on supplements and
healthy eating. I personally have lost
weight, lower my cholesterol, controlling
my blood pressure. Had floaters in my
eyes. Now I see better. Feel so much
better. She caught my thyroid condition.
so I could do something about it. Before
it is to late.

We are all in the world to help each
other out.

Jesus has saved us from our sins &
done so much for all of us. Sincerely,
In return we can help others. Marcella
Kueper
Henderson, W.F. 54216

To the Committee:

Sept. 14, 2009

Dan Kapanke
Dale Schultz
Tm Carpenter
Spencer Coggs
Kathleen Vinehoot

My name is Clyde L Robillard from Brussels, Wisconsin. In April of 2008 I was diagnosed with cancer of the rectum. The protocol was remove the rectum and be replaced by a sack on my side followed by radiation and chemotherapy (a form of mustard gas).

I told the doctor that his protocol was not an option for me. He informed me that I had approximately 16 months if I didn't do anything. I decided to use God's medicine (herbs, oils, etc).

One year later I am in remission according to blood tests, two months later the tumor fell off my rectum. My healing cost me between \$300 and \$500 per month and at no cost to the system. I may have saved the government over \$100,000 or more.

Do not violate my Ninth Amendment to the Constitution.

Article IX, U.S. Constitution states " The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the People."

Under the Ninth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America, I retain the right to freedom of choice in health care (or psychological services, or educational services, etc). This includes the right to choose my diet, and to obtain, purchase and use any therapy, regimen, modality, remedy or product recommended by the therapist, doctor or any practitioner of my choice.

CONSTRUCTIVE NOTICE: Notice is hereby given to any person who receives a copy of this declaration and who, acting under the color of law, intentionally interferes with the free exercise of the rights retained by me under the Ninth Amendment, as enumerated in this declaration, that they may be in violation of my civil and constitutional rights, Title 42, U.S.C. 1983 et seq. And Title 18, Section 241.

Sincerely,



Clyde L. Robillard

2565 County Road C
Brussels, WI 54204

Sept-14-2009

Hi,

I am writing this letter to let you know that I think + I know that Reflexology people are great people.

I have been to eight doctors since last August.

The one person that has help me a lot was Joyce.

She would tell me what was going on with my body.

I am on a lot of Vitamin + they have help me a lot.

I can walk a lot better + not so much shaking.

If the doctors would get together with Reflexology and just lesson to one another the world would be a better place to live in.

Pat Baker
406 Buchanan St.
Algona, IA 52001

From: Katie Vollrath <katievollger@gmail.com>
To: kristine@totalhealthinc.com
Date: 09/16/2009 11:17 AM
Subject: NO NO NO !!

To whom It may concern,

My name is Katie Vollrath and I am strongly urging you to protect the rights of places like Total Health and Nutrition. I have been living with health issues for many years and with out the help of this alternative medical practice I may have never found health and well being as I have now. The senate bill #115 is inappropriate government interference and I have the right as a consumer to make informed and intelligent decisions about where I find my healthcare. I have spent so much time money and energy in government regulated facilities and not found health as i have it now. Passing Senate Bill #115 will take away my rights to choose as a citizen.

Thank you

Katie Vollrath
1009 7th Avenue
Grafton, WI 53024

Natural medicine has helped me in ways that a trained professional could not. Eight weeks after having a cesarean procedure, I was feeling incredible pain near the scar. I went to the doctor/my gynecologist that performed the surgery and for weeks, all that my doctor gave me were painkillers. I saw two other doctors and they just performed more tests to prove that it wasn't an infection, which I appreciated but they had no recommendations beyond that. After returning to my gynecologist, she recommended that I see a physical therapist. I decided I would go to Marty at Total Health because I couldn't understand how a physical therapist could help a lower abdomen pain. Marty recommending changing my diet (trying to eat carbohydrates through vegetables and fruits, not grains), had me taking some whole food vitamins and suggested I rub "wheat germ oil" on the scar twice a day. Also, I had a few cold laser treatments performed directly on the scar. Within two weeks, I was feeling completely back to normal. I have seen Marty periodically for different ailments in which he's always had great advice and reminded me to get back into eating healthier. I have **never** had the same kind of advice from a professional doctor. I believe they can help when help is needed, and that's usually past the point of prevention: when you're already suffering. I think the naturopathic and homeopathic doctors help beyond what doctors are "trained" to do. They provide alternatives and ways to prevent disease and illness, not just treat it. By making these services illegal, you're taking away the right to choose how people want to live their lives. I think it's disgusting that anyone would think it would be "okay" or permissible to take away or make illegal these services.

Meghan Mack

3240 N Bartlett Ave

Milwaukee, WI 53211

414-467-9204

From: Barbara LaBudde <ibelieve@charter.net>
To: kristine@totalhealthinc.com
Date: 09/16/2009 02:00 PM
Subject: bill115

9/16/2009

To Whom it may concern,

It is most ironic that at such a time when Health is such a paramount issue in our country, that such a bill as #115 is on the table. While our government is pushing for a bill to increase disease centered health care, to get rid of the health problem, it's also attempting to push out that which could cure disease in the first place. Ludicrous.

I have received nutrition counseling and whole food supplements since May of this year and have experienced excellent results to my health problems. My regular medical Dr. would have only given me more pills or higher doses. I am much more healthy because of choosing the alternative to traditional medicine. I value and rate the services I've received at Total Health Natural Medicine Clinic very high and am very upset at the thought of these services being removed, not just for myself but all people who deserve the choice.

Sincerely,

Barbara LaBudde

From: Peter Fulton <some4now@hotmail.com>
To: kristine@totalhealthinc.com
Date: 09/16/2009 01:16 PM
Subject: FW: thursday gathering

From: some4now@hotmail.com
To: kristine@totalhealthinc.com
Subject: thursday gathering
Date: Wed, 16 Sep 2009 12:24:57 -0500

hello Kristine,
here is a testimony for the gathering on Thursday. Hope this helps!

Katie

Four years ago my body crashed. Due to high stresses in my life, my body started developing allergies and I was experiencing severe anxiety attacks every night. I had never experienced such symptoms before and I had no idea what I was dealing with. I was exhausted and miserable. My family doctor prescribed anti-depressants, but instead of covering up the symptoms, I chose to learn more about why my body was reacting that way and fix it.

When I began to see Martin Johnson I learned so much about how my body works and how the affects of stress and bad diet can take a toll. I not only removed bad things, but learned about the importance of adding nutritionally rich foods back into my diet. Through a healthy diet, exercise, vitamins and nutritional supplements, I've got my body back again. I feel good about my reflection for the first time in my life. I've lost over 50 pounds, I have energy to play with my kids, I'm happy, I have more confidence. All by exercise and good diet.

I feel that I would not have had the same results by any other treatment. My life has changed completely, and I am incredibly grateful for Martin Johnson and the whole staff at Total Health Nutrition Center.

Katie Fulton

27 years old

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Your E-mail and More On-the-Go. Get Windows Live Hotmail Free. [Sign up now.](#)

September 16, 2009

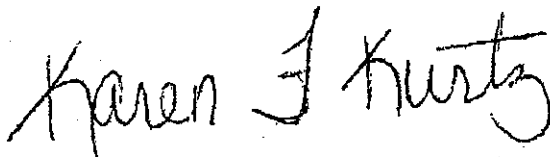
To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter recommending that you not pass the intended bill to stop certain professionals from making nutritional recommendations to their patients. My son has many severe allergies that often lead to other health related problems, including allergic reactions requiring inpatient care. After seeing little improvement using the Western medicine approach to treat his allergies, my husband and I turned to Martin Johnson for a more "natural" way to improve our son's health.

We have been seeing Martin for almost a year and have witnessed a great improvement in our son's overall health. In short, the nutritional supplements have made a dramatic difference in our son's physical well being. My husband and I firmly believe that it would be a great loss to lose Martin Johnson. We do not want to return to the old way of one prescription after another that never helped in the first place. We prefer that our son live a natural, healthier and less "painful" lifestyle.

Please do not pass this bill as it will impact many people and families that have decided to try a "new" way of living!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen F. Kurtz". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Karen F. Kurtz

September 15, 2009

Re: State Bill 115: Licensure of dietitians and requiring the exercise of rule-making authority.

Dear Honorable Senators Vinehout, Carpenter, Lehman, Taylor, Plale, Kanavas and Representative Richards,

This bill will unfortunately prevent naturopathic practitioners, such as Martin Johnson of Total Health Natural Medicine Clinic of Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin from providing persons such as myself with natural and nutritional information and guidance. It will also potentially eliminate his employment and that of his many valuable and knowledgeable employees. This clinic is one of over 100 practicing naturopaths in Wisconsin. So the implications of job loss multiplied by hundreds are obvious at a time when Wisconsin has an already high rate of unemployment.

This 'fence me in/fence me out' bill is just one more needless bill that continues to legislate the citizens of Wisconsin ad nauseum. This one in particular makes it difficult for persons seeking complementary or alternative medicines and advice from certified and degreed professionals in the areas of naturopathic medicine.

I have been under the care of Martin Johnson, Naturopathic Practitioner, for over 13 years. For the last 5 years his focus has been in providing nutritional and supplemental information to better maintain my cognition and general health geared specifically to my multiple sclerosis. If it were not for his efforts and sincere concern for my overall well being, I know for certain that I would not be functioning on the mental and cognitive levels that enable me to complete a masters degree in German, continue to study and teach Latin, keep a physically active life and enjoy a healthy attitude towards my condition.

They are thousands of taxpayers in Wisconsin that seek out complementary medicines to resolve health issues with positive results. In Wisconsin alone, there are over 10,000 people affected by MS, many of which seek out alternatives to western medicines. I shudder to think what the status of my health and quality of life along with thousands of others would be without these services offered by qualified and competent practitioners.

For me, the access to alternative medicines is particularly poignant, since the negative effects from western multiple sclerosis therapies cause cognitive, physical and mental interferences in my day-to-day life. Currently, I am considering discontinuing these therapies in favor of natural ones that cause no ill effects.

Thank you for seriously considering rejecting this bill that will negatively affect so many people of this great state.

Anne L. Schumacher
W224 N8168 Rudy Jr. Court
Sussex, WI 53089

From: LYNN KING <lynnking1256@sbcglobal.net>
To: kristine@totalhealthinc.com
Date: 09/13/2009 07:17 PM
Subject: Fw: Health Care Bill - Madison Trip

--- On **Sun, 9/13/09, LYNN KING <lynnking1256@sbcglobal.net>** wrote:

From: LYNN KING <lynnking1256@sbcglobal.net>
Subject: Health Care Bill - Madison Trip
To: kristine@totalhealth.com
Date: Sunday, September 13, 2009, 6:59 PM

Hi Kristine,

Although I am unable to participate in the trip to Madison, I would like to be able to share what the Total Health Clinic and its staff has done for me.

Two years ago, I was diagnosed with estrogen dominant breast cancer. The biopsy revealed the size of the tumor to be 8 cm. My family doctor referred to me an Oncologist that suggested I have surgery to cut out the cancer and several of my lymph nodes to ensure that the cancer has been removed. She also indicated that I would have to have chemo and/or radiation therapy. Even with these treatments, she could not ensure that I would be cancer free.

After meeting with her and discussing it with my family, I decided to follow a naturalistic form of treatment. Although this type of treatment is not covered by insurance and can not ensure that I will be cancer free, it approaches healing by trying to find the cause of the illness and then treating the body so it can heal itself thorough natural supplements. After being on this regiment for two years, the cancer has shrunk to 4cm.

I beg you not to take away our freedom to choose alternative treatments for the various diseases so prevalent in our western culture. I choose to treat my illnesses as naturally as possible and do not want lose this right.

The drug companies lose money when people seek alternative treatments. Drug companies do not want people to be well. In order for them to make a profit, they need sick people. Compare any drug to a natural supplement and you will find that the side effects of the drug can be worse then the illness itself.

Thank you for your support in helping me to keep my freedom of choice.

Sincerely,

Lynn King

September 17, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

Since 2001 I have had an issue with constant pain in both my upper arms, as a result of this I would make an appointment with my physician who would then prescribe a pain medication which would only mask the pain temporarily. Of course once off the meds I was given shots to both arms again, temporary relief if anyafter the shots I went to therapy...again...no relief. The one item I did receive from traditional medicine was a huge medical bill.

My daughter introduced me to food based supplements. Now in 2009 for the first time in eight years I am pain free! I'm feeling healthier and can do things I haven't been able to do in eight years, this is what I call a blessing and "Quality of Life!" I am very grateful to live in a country and have the opportunity where I can purchase supplements and have natural health as my alternative, I just can't imagine where I would be today without this choice. People are much more educated then we give them credit for. One of the supplements which have helped me immensely is Ligafex II.

I am very discouraged to think that in our country a group of people want to take away my right to go to Natural Health Practitioners and take vitamins/supplements which have proven to help me and other people's quality of life without endangering us!

I can make my own decisions on what I want to do and how I want to live my life. I am a functioning adult and do not rely on our government to pay my way in life or make decisions for me. We have cigarettes and alcohol out on the market....are groups out there stopping the sale of these items? Companies with big money won't allow it. It's about time someone stuck up for the people and not the special interest groups.

I'm an adult who can make my own decisions; I do not need someone telling me what I can and cannot do with my health. What I am saying is a lot of people have tried traditional medicine, if it works for them fine. Natural Health/Supplements work for me and others and do not harm us. I am not hurting anyone so please let us be, to be truthful I do not know where I would go if it wasn't for Natural Health & Supplements. I was raised to believe in *Freedom of Choice*....please don't take my freedom away.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kathy Stein".

Kathy Stein

From: DOROTHY McGRANE <dmcgrane@sbcglobal.net>
To: kristine@totalhealthinc.com **Cc:** dmcgrane@sbcglobal.net
Date: 09/16/2009 04:11 PM
Subject:

I am writing to urge you to think-- think about the legislation you are considering-- I am 74 years old and better still-- a healthy 74 year old who intends to be around many more years-- healthy-- I am such a believer in natural solutions to health issues and also-- prevention-- I have good health insurance and could go the Western way with Dr.s and prescriptions and do on occasion-- but I am so happy the West is beginning to wake up to solutions that have been around for thousands of years and embraces natural health--

This is a win win situation--

I am paying at this time out of my own pocket for treatments--no cost to insurance companies--

I suffer no side effects-- check the commercials for commonly used drugs--

and most important-- I am HEALTHY--

and not to forget-- this is America-- I have a CHOICE available for my health care--

Please consider carefully just what this all means

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely

Dorothy McGrane

SECTION 1. 146.86 of the statutes is created to read:

146.86 Provision of certain services related to health. (1) In this section:

- (a) "Controlled substance" has the meaning given in s. 961.01 (4).
 - (b) "Deliver" has the meaning given in s. 450.01 (5).
 - (c) "Device" has the meaning given in s. 450.01 (6).
 - (d) "Dispense" has the meaning given in s. 450.01 (7).
 - (e) "Health care professional" means any of the following:
 - 1. An individual who acts within the scope of his or her applicable license, registration, permit, or certification and to whom any of the following applies:
 - a. Is licensed as a tattooist under s. 252.23.
 - b. Is licensed as a body piercer under s. 252.24.
 - c. Is licensed or permitted as an emergency medical technician under s. 256.15 (5).
 - d. Is certified for performance of defibrillation under s. 256.15 (6g).
 - e. Is certified as a first responder under s. 256.15 (8).
 - f. Has a license, permit, or certificate of certification or registration that is issued under subch. VII, XI, or XII of ch. 440 or under ch. 441, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 454, 455, 457, 459, or 460.
 - 2. An individual who acts within the scope of a state-approved training and testing program and meets requirements for a feeding assistant under s. 146.40 (1) (aw).
 - 3. An individual who acts within the scope of an approved instruction program and an approved competency evaluation program and meets requirements for a nurse aide under s. 146.40 (2).
 - (h) "Health care practitioner" means an individual who provides health care services, but who is not a health care professional.
 - (i) "Prescription drug" has the meaning given in s. 450.01 (20).
- (2) Notwithstanding ss. 252.23 (3), 252.24 (3), 256.15 (2) and (5) (d), 440.88 (5) and (6), 440.98 (8) and (9), 440.982 (1), 441.06 (4), 441.15 (2), 446.02 (1), 447.03 (1) and (2), 448.03 (1) (a), (b), and (c) and (1m), 448.51 (1), 448.61, 448.961 (1) and (2), 449.02 (1), 450.03 (1), 451.04 (1), 454.04, 455.02, 457.04, 459.02 (1), 459.24 (1), and 460.02, a health care practitioner who provides to an individual services related to health does not violate s. 252.23 (3), 252.24 (3), 256.15 (2) or (5) (d), 440.982 (1), 441.06 (4), 441.15 (2), 446.02 (1), 447.03 (1) or (2), 448.03 (1) (a), (b), or (c) or (1m), 448.51 (1), 448.61, 448.961 (1) and (2), 449.02 (1), 450.03 (1), 451.04 (1), 454.04, 455.02, 457.04, 459.02 (1), 459.24 (1), or 460.02, and is not subject to action under s. 440.98 (8) or (9),

unless he or she does any of the following:

- (a) Punctures the skin, except by pricking a finger for purposes of blood screening.
- (b) Prescribes or administers X-ray services.
- (c) Prescribes, directly applies, delivers, or dispenses a device that may be prescribed, directly applied, delivered, or dispensed only by a health care professional, a prescription drug, or a controlled substance.
- (d) Performs a chiropractic adjustment or manipulation of joints or a spine.
- (e) Recommends to the individual that he or she discontinue treatment that is prescribed by a health care professional.
- (f) Diagnoses and treats a health condition of the individual so as to cause an imminent and significant risk of discernable and significant physical or mental injury under circumstances that the health practitioner reasonably would know would result in such an injury. None of the following is a diagnosis prohibited under this paragraph:

1. Use by a health practitioner of medical terminology or common words to describe a health condition.
2. Advice by a health practitioner that the individual consult a health care professional in order to rule out a potentially diagnosable condition.
3. A statement by a health practitioner that the individual's symptoms may be indicative of or consistent with a specific medical condition.

(g) Holds himself or herself out as or implies that he or she is a health care professional.

(3) A health practitioner who charges a fee for health services shall, before providing the services, do all of the following:

(a) Provide to the individual to be served, in a written statement, all of the following information:

1. The health practitioner's name, business address, and telephone number.
2. The fact that the health practitioner is not a health care professional.
3. The nature of the health services the health practitioner proposes to provide to the individual.
4. The education, training, experience, credentials, or other qualifications, if any, of the health practitioner with respect to the health care services the health practitioner proposes to provide to the individual.

(b) Post in a prominent location in the office or treatment location of the health practitioner a copy of a statement, printed in not less than 12-point boldface type, that contains all of the following information:

1. The health practitioner's name, business address, and telephone number.

2. The fact that the health practitioner is not a health care professional.
 3. The nature of the health services the health practitioner generally provides.
 4. The education, training, experience, credentials, or other qualifications, if any, of the health practitioner with respect to the health care services specified under subd. 3.
- (c) The health practitioner shall attempt to ensure that individuals who cannot read, who have communication impairments, or who do not read or speak English or the language of the health practitioner are able to understand the statements under pars. (a) and (b).
- (d) Before initially providing health services to an individual, obtain a written acknowledgment from the individual stating that he or she has been provided the statement described under par. (a) and provide the individual with a copy of the acknowledgment. The health practitioner shall maintain the acknowledgment for 2 years as a confidential health document.
- (e) If the information under par. (a) 1. or 2. changes, the health practitioner shall change the statement under par. (a) accordingly, shall post the changed statement as required under par. (b), and, for each individual served after the statement is changed, shall comply with pars. (a) and (d).
- (f) Disclosing information to a client under the requirement of this section regarding a degree lawfully gained does not constitute a violation of Wisconsin statute.
- (4) (a) Except as provided in par. (g), the department, after holding a public hearing under par. (b), may issue a special order against any person requiring him or her to cease and desist from an act, practice, or omission that the department determines violates this section. The order is subject to judicial review under ch. 227. Any violation of a special order issued under this paragraph is punishable as contempt under ch. 785 in the manner provided for disobedience of a lawful order of a court, upon the filing of an affidavit by the department of the violation in the circuit court of the county in which the violation occurred.
- (b) The department, in any matter relating to issuing, revoking, or amending a special order relating to a named person, shall serve upon the person complained against a complaint in the name of the department and a notice of public hearing on the complaint to be held not sooner than 10 days after the service. After the notice is served, the person may not act, practice, or omit to act as described in the complaint. The person complained against may be heard in person or by agent or attorney and is entitled to process to compel the attendance of witnesses.

(c) Complaint, notice, order, or other process of the department may be served as may be a summons, a subpoena may be served as provided by s. 885.03, and either may be served by registered mail to the person's address. Service may be proved by affidavit or by the post-office return receipt, in which case the time of service is the date borne by the receipt.

(d) Testimony presented and proceedings at a hearing under par. (b) shall be recorded and when necessary shall be transcribed. The secretary shall make his or her findings and determination on the testimony. The department shall make rules of procedure and practice not inconsistent with any law governing the procedure or practice.

(e) In addition to or in lieu of any other remedies under this subsection, the department may apply to a circuit court for a temporary or permanent injunction to prevent, restrain, or enjoin any person from violating this section or any special order of the department issued under par (a), without being compelled to allege or prove that an adequate remedy at law does not exist.

(f) Any person suffering pecuniary loss because of a violation of this section may sue for damages in any circuit court and may recover treble the amount of the pecuniary loss, together with costs, including reasonable attorney fees.

(g) For a violation of sub. (3), the department shall employ an educational or mediative approach to bring the violator into compliance. If the department determines that this approach has failed, the department may issue a special order under par. (a).

(5) This section does not apply to the act of a person practicing Christian Science treatment or who, under s. 895.48, is exempt.

(END)